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Inventory of the Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland, Records, 1873-1993

Sc Micro R-7091

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture



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Preface This inventory was prepared under the auspices of the Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The project, which was funded by the Lilly Endowment, was established to identify, preserve and acquire primary research materials essential for the documentation of African-American religious life.

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland, Records, 1873-1993
Collection Number:	Sc Micro R-7091
Creator:	Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland.
Size:	9 reels of microfilm
Repository:	The New York Public Library Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
Languages Represented:	English

History

The Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church originates from the establishment of the first black congregation in Baltimore, Maryland in 1787. The first church, built in 1802, was located on Sharp Street between Lombard and Pratt Streets. The present edifice was erected and occupied in 1898. On July 21, 1982, Sharp Street Memorial Church and the community house were entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

Mount Auburn Cemetery was founded in 1872 by Rev. James Pack and the Memorial United Methodist Church (Sharp Street Church) in protest to segregation in the white Methodist church at the time. It is the oldest black cemetery in Baltimore City. The 117 year old cemetery was originally known as the "City of the Dead for Colored People." Former slaves who had escaped to freedom through the Underground Railroad were among those buried here by Baltimore's African-American families. For years it was the only burial ground for Baltimore blacks.

In addition to runaway slaves, the cemetery contains the remains of one of the first black bishops in the African Methodist Church, William Asbie Hawkins; the first black ship chandler; the first black lightweight boxing champion of the world (1901-1908), Joseph Ganns; and civil rights activists, lawyers, doctors, teachers and the relatives of thousands of African-American families.


Scope and Content

The records of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Mount Auburn Cemetery were microfilmed by the The Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project (PBRHP) of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture during the months of December 1992 and June 1994. Originals were retained by the church. The records were arranged for microfilming according to the existing church filing system. Pages of bound ledgers were microfilmed sequentially as they appeared. One series includes church records from 1911 through the 1960s which were not microfilmed by the Maryland State Archives.

Related or Complementary Collections

Sharp Street United Methodist Church Records in Other Repositories

Maryland State Archives: Sharp Street Memorial

Series Descriptions/Container List 

r. 1

Financial Records 

The FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1913-1944, series contains trustee reports with entries pertaining to the cemetery. Collection plate records and records of rallies for church projects are also included.

- r. 1 v. 1 Trustee Reports, 1923-1930
- r. 1 v. 2 Church And Cemetery, 1923-1944
- r. 1 v. 3 Leaders And Stewards, 1913-1917
- r. 1 v. 4 Collection Plates, 1926-1933
- r. 1 v. 5 Record Of Rallies, 1916-1918

r. 2

Minutes 

The MINUTE BOOKS AND REPORTS, 1911-1962, series contains the minutes of the official boards and various church groups as well as affiliated organizations in which the church has had membership. The latter includes the Baltimore Preachers Meetings and the Women's Society of Christian Service, North Baltimore District.

- r. 2 v. 1 Leaders and Stewards Meetings Minutes, 1922-1938
- r. 2 v. 2 Official Boards Minutes, 1925-1943
- r. 2 v. 3 Trustees Board Minutes, 1911-1918 (Includes Financial Records)
- r. 2 v. 4 Trustees Board Minutes, 1931-1950
- r. 2 v. 5 Baltimore Preachers Meetings Minutes, 1940-1945
- v. 6 r. 3 Community House Weekly Report, January 1947-December 1946
- r. 3 v. 7 Women's Society of Christian Service, North Baltimore District - Minutes, 1949-1962

Cemetery Records 

The CEMETERY RECORDS, 1873-1993, series is comprised of ledgers wherein are entered the rosters of cemetery lot owners, burials and death records. In many ledgers information on origin, birth, cause of death and physician has been indicated. Information on the lots includes location and number of burials per site as well as depth of interment. A schematic drawing of the cemetery is also included.

r. 3 v. 8	Lot Owners, January 1892-August 1947
r. 3 v. 9	Undated Volume
r. 3 v. 10	Cemetery Burials, Death Records, 1923-1926
r. 3 v. 11	Cemetery Burials, Death Records, 1904-1934
v. 12 r. 4	Lot Owners, 1873-1936
	Cemetery Burials, Death Records
r. 4 v. 13	1924-1928
r. 4 v. 14	1926-1930
r. 4 v. 15	1928-1933
r. 4 v. 16	1930-1935
v. 17 r. 5	1933-1938
r. 5 v. 18	1935-1941
r. 5 v. 19	1938-1944
r. 5 v. 20	1944-1949
r. 5 v. 21	1949-1955
v. 22 r. 6A	1953-1958
r. 6A v. 23	1955-1960
r. 6A v. 24	1957-1971
r. 6A v. 25	1958-1963
r. 6A v. 26	1960-1964
v. 27 r. 7A	1963-1966
r. 7A v. 28	1966-1968
	Cemetery Burials, Lots
r. 7A v. 29	1907-1908
	1911-1912
r. 7A v. 30	February 1913-August 1939
r. 7A v. 31	December 1930-January 1933
r. 7A v. 32	May 1933-June 1938
r. 7A v. 33	October 1934-April 1936
r. 7A v. 34	April 1936-July 1940

r. 7A v. 35	February 1947-October 1950
r. 7A v. 36	January 1951-July 1961
r. 7A v. 37	Financial Ledger, October 1957-May 1960
r. 6B	Cemetery Burials, Death Records
r. 6B v. 38	December 1966-September 1970
r. 6B v. 39	December 1966-June 1969
r. 6B v. 40	December 1969-January 1971
r. 6B v. 41	September 1970-April 1974
r. 6B v. 42	May 1971-January 1975
r. 6B v. 43	January 1972-December 1974
v. 44 r. 7B	December 1974-January 1980
r. 7B v. 45	January 1975-March 1980
r. 7B v. 46	January 1975-September 1980
r. 7B v. 47	February 1980-May 1982
r. 7B v. 49	March 1987-April 1993
r. 7B v. 50	May 1989-October 1989
	Cemetery Weekly Reports
	January 1947-December 1947
	Diagram Of Cemetery

Some records are water-stained, torn or otherwise damaged. Records filmed out of sequence are duly indicated here.